

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 12675 111609Z

43

ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCA-01 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00

NSAE-00 NEA-10 /027 W

----- 087017

P 111356Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7427

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 12675

E.O. 11652 XGDS

SUBJECT: LEBANESE VISA APPLICANTS

REF: STATE 198266, STATE 190983,

1. EMBASSY ISSUED 18 NIVS (14 B-2, 3 C-1, 1 F-1) TO LEBANESE IN THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF 1976. A TOTAL OF 12 OF THE 18 NIVS WERE ISSUED DURING JULY. MOST RECIPIENTS OF THESE VISAS WERE LEBANESE STUDENTS AT SOVIET UNIVERSITIES OR INSTITUTES WHO ARE VISITING US FRIENDS OR RELATIVES DURING SCHOOL VACATION PERIOD. ONLY ONE LEBANESE WAS REFUSED AN NIV IN JULY AND NO LEBANESE WERE REFUSED IN THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 - JUNE 30, ALTHOUGH ONE LEBANESE APPLICANT WHO WOULD HAVE BEEN REFUSED WITHDREW HIS APPLICATION IN JANUARY.

2. NO LEBANESE WERE ISSUED OR REFUSED IVS IN THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 - JULY 31. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED FEW INQUIRIES FROM UNQUALIFIED LEBANESE CITIZENS FOR EITHER NIVS OR IVS AND ANTICIPATES THAT DEMAND FOR REFUGEE OR TEMPORARY SAFEHAVEN BY PERSONS WHO ARE ALREADY LEBANESE CITIZENS WOULD BE SMALL. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT MOST LEBANESE CITIZENS NOW LIVING IN THE USSR FALL WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF UNHCR ANALYSIS OUTLINED PARA 3 REFTEL IN THAT THEY APPEAR TO HAVE MEANS OF SUPPORT, MOSTLY IN FORM OF SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDY AT SOVIET UNIVERSITY. THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES ARE NOT ATTEMPTING TO EVICT THEM AND MOST APPEAR TO DESIRE RETURN TO LEBANON.

3. THE LEBANESE CRISIS HAS, HOWEVER, HAD A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 12675 111609Z

ON THE CONDITIONAL ENTRY PROGRAM UNDER SECTION 203(A)(7) INA

ON BEHALF OF SOVIET CITIZENS. THE LEBANESE DISORDERS HAVE RESULTED IN A SUDDEN AND DRAMATIC INCREASE IN BOTH THE TOTAL NUMBER OF EMIGRANTS PROCESSED AND THE ARMENIAN PORTION OF THE TOTAL FOR REASON STATED PARA 4 BELOW.

4. SOVIET EXIT REGULATIONS REQUIRE THAT EACH EMIGRANT HAVE IN HIS PASSPORT THE ENTRY VISA OF THE COUNTRY TO WHICH EXIT PERMISSION IS GRANTED. SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE TCP PROGRAM IN 1972, EMBASSY HAS PLACED PRO FORMA STAMPS IN THE PASSPORTS OF SOVIETS WHO RECEIVE EXIT PERMISSION FOR THE US SO THAT THEY MAY DEPART THE USSR FOR TCP IN ROME. AMONG THESE EMIGRANTS WERE A LARGE NUMBER OF SOVIET ARMENIANS BUT MANY OTHER SOVIET ARMENIANS RECEIVED EXIT PERMISSION TO REJOIN CLOSE FAMILY MEMBERS IN LEBANON AND RESETTLE IN THAT COUNTRY. AS THE LEBANESE CRISIS ESCALATED IN THE FALL OF 1975, THE LEBANESE EMBASSY IN MOSCOW, APPARENTLY UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM BEIRUT, BEGAN TO REFUSE SOVIET EMIGRANTS ENTRY VISAS, IN EFFECT, STRANDING THEM IN USSR. IN RECENT MONTHS, HOWEVER, THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES HAVE DRAMATICALLY CHANGED PREVIOUS POLICY BY PERMITTING SUCH PERSONS TO CHANGE THE COUNTRY TO WHICH EXIT PERMISSION IS GRANTED FROM LEBANON TO THE US, PROVIDED THAT THE APPLICANT CAN PRESENT AN INVITATION FROM A US RELATIVE.

5. THE EFFECT OF THIS CHANGE IN SOVIET ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ON THE EMBASSY WORKLOAD IS ILLUSTRATED BY THE FIGURES BELOW:

|                        | 1974        | 1975         | 1976              |
|------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------|
|                        | JAN 1-JUL31 |              |                   |
| TOTAL NUMBER OF        |             |              |                   |
| EMIGRANTS PROCESSED    |             | 1019         | 1162 1550         |
| NO. OF ARMENIAN        |             |              |                   |
| EMIGRANTS PROCESSED    |             | 290          | 455 1089          |
| ARMENIAN EMIGRANTS     |             |              |                   |
| AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL |             | 28.5 PERCENT | 39.2 PERCENT 70.2 |

THE NUMBER OF EMIGRANTS PROCESSED TO DATE IN 1976 IS ALREADY SIGNIFICANTLY GREATER THAN THE TOTAL NUMBER PROCESSED THROUGHOUT

THE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 12675 111609Z

INCREASE IS ALMOST ENTIRELY ATTRIBUTABLE TO ARMENIAN EMIGRATION WHICH NOW COMPRISES MORE THAN 70 PERCENT OF ALL DIRECT SOVIET EMIGRATION TO THE US. THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THIS INCREASED ARMENIAN OUTFLOW INVOLVES PERSONS WHO ONCE HAD EXIT PERMISSION FOR LEBANON.  
STOESSEL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, VISAS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976MOSCOW12675  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** DG PER 76 MOSCOW 13184  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760309-0249  
**From:** MOSCOW  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760865/aaaacehb.tel  
**Line Count:** 113  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION VO  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 198266, 76 STATE 190983  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <24 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LEBANESE VISA APPLICANTS  
**TAGS:** SREF, CVIS, LE, UR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006